

MEETINGS

In this department we hope to publish timely announcements of future meetings and reports of events and papers presented at past meetings. For this we rely on the organizers of meetings to send us announcements as early as possible, and on colleagues in each country to send us reports, avoiding duplication by checking with the editor or the nearest member of the International Commission.

INDIAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS

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The idea for forming an Indian society for the history of mathematics was expressed in 1974 by the writer of this report. The occasion for proposing the formation of such a society was to be the gathering of scholars for the *Symposium on History of Mathematics* held during the 62nd session of the *Indian Science Congress Association*, Delhi, 1975. (See *Historia Mathematica* 1975 (3), 318). The proposal was supported by the then President of the Mathematics Section of the Science Congress, but for various reasons the proposal was not made at the 62nd Congress as intended.

Then, on April 19, 1975, India launched (from a cosmodrome in USSR) her first artificial satellite named ARYABHATA after the country's great astronomer and mathematician, Aryabhata I (born 476 A.D.). Since then, great interest in the history of science has been generated in India. In the following year, the 1500th anniversary of Aryabhata took place and several celebrations were held (*Historia Mathematica* 1976, 468 and 1977, 91 and 214). These brisk activities naturally drew the attention of professional mathematicians and other scholars who became aware of the need for study, research and teaching in the history of mathematics. In particular, some leading Indian mathematicians became actively interested in the matter. Finally, the time had come to take the first steps in establishing a forum, and consequently a convention in the history of mathematics was held at the University of New Delhi on October 28, 1976, under the chairmanship of Professor U. N. Singh. This resulted in the establishment of the *Indian Society for the History of Mathematics* (ISHM). A steering committee of about a dozen members was formed with Professor Singh as chairman.

The "Memorandum" and the "Rules and Regulations" of the Society were soon prepared. The major objectives of the organization are:

1. To promote, to foster and to encourage the study of the history of mathematics.

2. To disseminate the results of research in the history of mathematics.

3. To provide a forum for the exchange of experience concerning studies and research in the history of mathematics.

The first executive council for the management of the affairs of the Society consists of the President (U. N. Singh), 5 Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary (D. K. Sinha), 6 additional officers and 13 ordinary members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1978

The first annual general meeting of the ISHM was held on January 2, 1978 at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, on the eve of the 65th session of the Indian Science Congress which also met there. It was chaired by Professor U. N. Singh and was attended by about 20 individuals, which included both members and prospective members.

At the request of Dr. R. C. Gupta, the Chairman asked the members to observe 2 minutes' silence in memory of Professor Kenneth O. May, who contributed so much to the history of mathematics. Professor Singh praised *Historia Mathematica*, which, due to Professor May's untiring efforts has emerged as a truly international publication, greatly valued by all who are interested in the history of mathematics.

In his address, Professor Singh described the purpose and aims for which the ISHM was formed. He pointed out the need for an organized effort to investigate the history of Indian mathematics and to secure a proper place for it in books devoted to the general (world) history of mathematics.

Dr. J. N. Kapur, one of the Vice-presidents of the Society, talked about the usefulness of his book, *Problems from Ancient Indian Mathematics* (Delhi, 1975), for schools. He stressed the desirability for including the history of mathematics in mathematics curricula at all levels.

Dr. K. M. Saksena, President of the Mathematics Section of the Science Congress, 1977-1978, discussed the reasons why the history of mathematics is not currently popular in university courses in India.

Dr. M. K. Singal, who has collected a list of about 2000 Indian theses in mathematics (completed during the current century), spoke on various types of activities and materials useful for the history of mathematics. He said that we must have books by Indian authors on the history of mathematics.